

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method of providing a food item with an eating utensil, the method comprising:

providing a food display unit proximate a point of sale;

providing individual food items within the food display unit; and

associating a dispenser with the food display unit, wherein the dispenser is adapted to dispense eating utensils.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising loading a plurality of eating utensils into the dispenser, wherein the eating utensils are in satchels and the satchels are interconnected to form a bandolier.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the food display unit is a refrigerator unit.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the food display unit is a freezer unit.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the food display unit is heated.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the food display unit is neither heated nor cooled.
7. The method of claim 1, further comprising associating a microwave oven with the food display unit.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the eating utensils are spoons.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the eating utensils are forks.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the eating utensils are sporks.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the dispenser is coupled with a shelf within the food display unit.

12. A method of providing a food item on the go, comprising:
providing a food display case proximate a point of sale, the display having
at least one shelf;
stocking a food item within the display;
providing a dispenser coupled to the at least one shelf, wherein the
dispenser includes a cavity and an opening.
providing a bandolier of individually wrapped eating utensils; and
storing the bandolier within the cavity so that a first end of the bandolier is
fed through the opening so that the utensils can be dispensed.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein the food display case is a refrigerator unit.
14. The method of claim 12, wherein the food display case is a freezer unit.
15. The method of claim 12, wherein the food display case is heated.
16. The method of claim 12, wherein the food display case is neither heated nor cooled.
17. The method of claim 12, further comprising associating a microwave oven with the food display case.
18. The method of claim 12, wherein the eating utensils are spoons.
19. The method of claim 12, wherein the eating utensils are forks.
20. The method of claim 12, wherein the eating utensils are sporks.
21. The method of claim 12, wherein the food item is yogurt.

22. A utensil dispenser comprising:
- a housing;
 - a cavity within the housing for receiving a bandolier of individually wrapped items;
 - an opening through the housing in communication with the cavity; and
 - an attachment device for coupling the housing to a price shelf of shelving unit.
23. The spoon dispenser of claim 22, wherein the attachment device is a bracket.
24. The spoon dispenser of claim 22, wherein the attachment device is selected from the group consisting of screws and bolts.
25. The spoon dispenser of claim 22, wherein the attachment device is an adhesive.
26. The spoon dispenser of claim 22, wherein the attachment device is a magnet.
27. A system for providing food items in conjunction with eating utensils, the system comprising:
- a food display unit proximate a point of sale, the display unit including a shelf for displaying the food items; and
 - a dispenser associated with the food display unit and including
 - a housing having an opening therethrough and a cavity in communication with the opening and adapted to receive a

bandolier of individually wrapped eating utensils, wherein
the eating utensils are dispensed through the opening, and
an attachment device for coupling the housing to the display unit.

28. The system of claim 27, wherein the food display unit is a refrigerator unit.

29. The system of claim 27, wherein the food display unit is a freezer unit.

30. The system of claim 27, wherein the food display unit is heated.

31. The system of claim 27, wherein the food display unit is neither heated nor cooled.

32. The method of claim 27, further comprising a microwave oven associated with the food display unit.

33. A method for dispensing food packets for use with a food product on the go, comprising:

providing a food display case proximate a point of sale, the display having
at least one shelf;

stocking a food product within the display;

providing a dispenser coupled to the at least one shelf, wherein the
dispenser includes a cavity and an opening.

providing a bandolier of individually wrapped food packets; and

storing the bandolier within the cavity so that a first end of the bandolier is
fed through the opening so that the food packets can be dispensed.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the act of providing a bandolier of individually wrapped food packets include providing food packets containing a seasoning.

35. The method of claim 33, wherein the act of providing a bandolier of individually wrapped food packets include providing food packets containing a topping.

36. A method for providing free samples of a food product prior to purchase of the product, comprising:

providing a food display case, the display having at least one shelf;

stocking free samples of the food product within the display;

providing at least one dispenser coupled to the at least one shelf, wherein the dispenser includes a cavity and an opening.

providing at least one bandolier, with each of the at least one bandolier including one of utensils or food packets; and

storing the at least one bandolier within the cavity so that a first end of the bandolier is fed through the opening so that the one of the utensils or food packets can be dispensed.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the act of providing free samples includes providing a quantity of food product consistent the objective of enabling a customer to appreciate the taste of the food product sold.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein the act of providing at least one dispenser, includes providing two dispensers.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein the act of providing a bandolier includes providing one bandolier with utensils and one bandolier with food packets.